

Post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Baseline Chemistry Data

The table titled, "Concentrations (ng/g, wet weight) of selected polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons measured in edible tissues of shrimp, fish and crab collected in the Gulf of Mexico region as part of Post Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Response by the Northwest Fishery Science Center" shows the chemistry data on polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) chemical contaminants. The chemistry data are reported in nanograms per gram (parts per billion: ppb) PAH in edible tissue of finfish, crab and shrimp collected after hurricanes Katrina and Rita between September 2005 and November 2006 at sites in the Gulf of Mexico and represent additional baseline data pre-Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Chemicals analyzed: Consistent with the protocol the table shows the eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that are on the list of re-opening criteria for the Deepwater Horizon MC 252 oil spill and for which we have screening values. The eight PAHs are naphthalene (NPH), fluorine (FLU), anthracene/phenanthrene (ANT/PHN), fluoranthene (FLA), chrysene (CHR), benzo[a]pyrene (BaP), benz[a]anthracene (BAA), and pyrene (PYR). The last five PAHs (fluoranthene, pyrene, benz[a]anthracene, chrysene, and benzo[a]pyrene) are considered to be the compounds of most concern.

Number of samples: Samples of individual animals taken in the field were either analyzed individually or combined with samples of the same species at the same site to make a composite sample for chemical analysis. Composite samples are made up of two to 12 individual animals.

Sample sites: The sample sites are nearshore and offshore of Louisiana and Mississippi.

Significance of findings: The concentrations of PAHs found in all samples were very low. The concentrations shown in the table are at least ten fold lower than then the lowest permissible level for the eight PAHs listed above. The data on PAHs in the post-hurricane samples from 2005 and 2006 are similar to PAH values found in baseline samples in 2010 in front of the oil spill of the Deepwater Horizon MC 252 event.